

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

Main Website: www.energy.ca.gov



Workshop Agenda

Informational Proceeding to Improve the HERS Program

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Hearing Room A

Sacramento, CA 95814

(Wheelchair accessible)

Introduction (9:00 – 9:10)

Pedro Gomez, Office Manager
Building Standards Implementation Office
Efficiency and Renewable Energy Division

Opening Comments (9:10 – 9:40)

Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Lead Commissioner for Efficiency Matters,
Energy Commission

Topic: Provider Quality Assurance Program (9:40 – 10:25)

This topic will explore the adequacy of the Provider Quality Assurance (QA) Program as specified in the HERS Regulations, Cal. Code Regs., Title 20, Section 1673.

Questions to consider:

- How do the QA requirements impact the Providers business model?
- What changes should be made to the current QA requirements?
- How should QA be used in the development and training of Raters?
- Would requiring Continuing Education Credits keep Raters informed as to the latest techniques and requirements?
- How can the QA program be leveraged so that a Rater's re-certification depends on meeting QA requirements?
- How would an independent third-party Quality Assurance company help HERS Providers meet the required QA goals and allow Providers to focus on their core business?

Public Comments

Oral comments: Staff will accept oral comments during the workshop. Various classes of stakeholders, including HERS Providers, HERS Raters, Builders, HVAC Installers, and members of the public will be invited to answer questions in-turn as a group on each of the agenda topics. Any comments will become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Topic: HERS Rater Disciplinary Process (10:25 – 11:10)

This topic will explore how the HERS Regulations can be updated to provide clear direction when disciplinary action is taken by a HERS Provider.

Questions to consider:

- What is the Providers' current progressive disciplinary process?
- If any, what are the consequences for each violation?
- Should decertification of a Rater by one provider limit that Rater's ability to become certified with another HERS Provider?
- Should a HERS Rater decertification by one HERS Provider result in their decertification by all other HERS Providers where they may already have a certification?
- Should the disciplinary decision be overseen by an independent group?
- If so, how should this group be constituted and how should it function?

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Topic: HERS Rater Companies (11:10 – 12:00)

This topic will explore how the HERS Regulations can be updated to identify the oversight responsibility for HERS Rater companies.

Questions to consider:

- Should the owner/operator of a Rater Company be required to be a certified HERS Rater in good standing?
- If so, should the regulations require the owner/operator to have additional certification and training?
- If so, what should that training consist of?
- Should corrective action taken against one Rater be applied to all Raters of a Rater Company?

- Should individuals (not Raters) entering compliance document data into a HERS Registry need to be certified to do so?

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Lunch (12:00 – 1:00)

Topic: Conflict of Interest (1:00 – 1:50)

This topic will explore the need for updating the HERS Regulations to more clearly define the role of a Provider when the Provider is involved in other aspects of the building and construction industry.

Questions to consider:

- Should the Regulations prohibit Raters from performing HERS verification on homes for which they were the energy consultant?
- Should Providers be prohibited from accepting compliance documentation or rating data for work performed on homes where the Provider manages the above-code rating system?
- Should Providers be prohibited from accepting compliance documentation or rating data for work in which an affiliate company has prepared or conducted the analyses for the compliance documentation?
- Should Contractors or their affiliates be prohibited from performing ratings on projects where they have installed energy efficiency measures?

Public Comments

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Topic: Permissible HERS Provider Certification Categories (1:50 – 2:40)

This topic will explore the possibility of defining the levels of Provider Certifications.

Questions to consider:

- Should HERS Providers be required to get certifications for all of the categories of Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing?
- Should Providers be approved for only one segment of the market? (Alterations, Newly-constructed Buildings, Whole-House HERS, BPC, NSHP, etc.)
- How does segmenting the HERS industry impact consumers?
- Should it be ensured that all aspects of Title 24 compliance are being offered by one or more providers?

Public Comments

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Final Public Questions and Comments (2:40 – 3:00)**Adjourn (3:00)**